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PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 04724.0085-00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Yoshihiro NARUSE et al.

Serial No.: 09/317,916

Group Art Unit: 3641

Filed: May 25, 1999

Examiner: to be assigned

For: MAINTENANCE METHOD IN
NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), applicants brings to the attention of the Examiner the document listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

A copy of the listed document is attached.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed document and indicate that it was considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

Applicants provide the following statement of relevance for the attached non English language document:

LAW OFFICES

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON,
FARABOW, GARRETT,
& DUNNER, L.L.P.
1300 I STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005
202-408-4000

Serial No.: 09/317,916

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Japanese Laid-Open Patent Application No. 6-94885, entitled "Underwater Inspection Device and Underwater Inspection Method," discloses an underwater inspection device comprising a main body including an underwater suspending means, an underwater moving means, an imaging means, and a control means for controlling remotely the inspection device's main body. The main body of the inspection device is operated remotely by the control means such that the moving means is driven thereby to move the main body to a desired direction in an underwater area and an image is displayed on the display unit of the control means.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that the listed document is material or constitutes "prior art." If the Examiner applies the listed document as prior art against any claim in the application and applicants determine that the cited document does not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants reserves the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such document.

Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed document, should it be applied against the claims of the present application.

LAW OFFICES

**FINNEGAN, HENDERSON,
FARABOW, GARRETT,
& DUNNER, L. L.P.
1300 I STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20005
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If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

By: _____


Christopher W. Day

Reg. No. 43,944

Date: November 5, 1999

LAW OFFICES

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON,
FARABOW, GARRETT,
& DUNNER, L.L.P.
1300 I STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20005
202-408-4000